

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00707 020535Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 OES-06 /023 W
-----021534Z 025636 /50
R 0111450Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000
INFO USDOC WASHDC
ERDA WASHDC

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 707

COMMERCE FOR VUNGER, ERDA FOR SIEVERING

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, ENRG, MR
SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: SOLAR ENERGY

REF: STATE 67909

1. REFTEL REVEALS COMMUNICATIONS GAP OF PERHAPS MAJOR PROPORTIONS:

(A) MISSION WAS NOT RPT NOT AWARE OF E SYSTEMS, INC. PLAN TO VISIT MAURITANIA IN DECEMBER/JANUARY. CONCLUSION DRAWN FROM AMBASSADOR'S SEPTEMBER MEETING WITH E SYSTEMS' LAUDERDALE AND COMMERCE MAJOR PROJECTS STAFF IN WASHINGTON WAS FIRM WOULD NOT BEPREPARED MAKE ILLUSTRATED PRESENTATION IN FRENCH FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS AND AFTER RPT AFTER VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA.

(B) MISSION KNOWS OF NO RPT NO MAURITANIANS, EITHER GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE, WHO HAVE OR WHO HAD ANY THOUGHT LET ALONE INTENTION

VISITING US TODISCUSS UTILIZATION OF SOLAR ENERGY IN MAURITANIA. INDEED, EVEN THAT HANDFUL OF GIRM OFFICIALS WHICH HAS BEGUN TO THINK IN VERY PRELIMINARY FASHION ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF NONCONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES HERE IS SO INADEQUATELY INFORMED ON PRESENT

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STATE OF THE ART THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW HOW OR WHERE TO BEGIN TO ADDRESS PROBLEM IN SOME SYSTEMATIC FASHION. HENCE CRITICAL NEED FOR FULL-DRESS PRESENTATION BY US SPECIALISTS COUPLED WITH SEVERAL DAYS OF FOLLOW-ON-DISCUSSIONS. IF DEPARTMENTS OR E SYSTEMS HAVE DIRECT IN-

DICATION OF MAURITANIAN INTEREST, WE WOULD MUCH APPRECIATE FULL SPECIFIC TO PERMIT FOLLOW-UP HERE.

2. RE TIMING OF VISIT BY E SYSTEMS TEAM- PROVIDED WE HAVE MINIMUM FOUR WEEKS TO SET UP FOUR OR FIVE-DAY SCHEDULE, DATE OF VISIT NOT RPT NOT CRITICAL AS FAR AS NOUAKCHOTT (AND POSSIBLY ZOUERATE) PRESENTATION IS CONCERNED. IF, HOWEVER, E SYSTEMS TEAM IS INTERESTED IN VISITING MNE'MA, ONE OF PRIME SITES FOR 5 MW SOLAR ELECTRICAL GENERATING PLANT (AMBASSADOR'S NOVEMBER 12 LETTER TO SIEVERING) AND POSSIBLY TIDJIKDJA, ANOTHER REMOTE SITE WHERE EXTREMELY HIGH COST OF CONVENTIONAL (PRESUMABLY DIESEL) GENERATION MAKES SOLAR ALTERNATIVE, DESPITE HIGH INXY INVESTMENT, EXTREMELY ATTRACTIVE, BEST TIMING FOR VISIT WOULD BE NOVEMBER/DECEMBER, AFTER AMBIENT TEMPERATURES DROP BELOW 100 F. AND AMBASSADOR RETURNS FROM CONSULATIONS/HL. MAY/JUN/JULY VISIT IS FEASIBLE, BUT HEAT COULD POSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR VISITORS FROM COOLER CLIMES.

3. AM DELIGHTED TO HEAR CROSBYTON PROJECT IS GOING WELL, AM CONVINCED US AND MAURITANIA CAN BOTH PROFIT TREMENDOUSLY FROM MARRIAGE US SOLAR TECHNOLOGY AND MAURITANIA'S "00 PLUS DAYS OF BRIGHT SUNSHINE AND STAND READY TO MEET LAUNDERDALE AND COHORTS AT AIRPORT WITH LOCAL EQUIVALENT OF BRASS BAND.

HANDYSIDE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Event:
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